NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

NASS NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For Week Ending August 3, 1997

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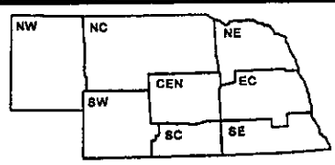
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources--UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures across the State averaged one to four degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was widespread across the State with averages ranging from a tenth of an inch to nearly two inches.

GENERAL

Below normal temperatures and scattered rainfall provided only limited relief to row crops and livestock stressed by the extended dry conditions, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Panhandle and southeastern counties averaged one to two inches of rain, however, moisture accumulation in other areas averaged only sixty hundredths of an inch or less. As a result, row crop conditions improved in parts of the southeast while continuing to decline in the central and south central areas. Insect activity continued to be noted over much of the State. Producers were busy irrigating crops, haying, crop spraying, and doing routine chores.

CROPS

Winter wheat harvest was 97% complete as of Sunday, ahead of 93% last year and the average of 89%. Reports from the Panhandle indicated harvest had slowed on remaining fields due to wet soil conditions.

Corn condition rated 2% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 52% good, and 15% excellent. Irrigated corn rated 77% good to excellent, while 49% of the dryland corn was in these categories Over half of the dryland crop in central and south central counties was rated in poor or very poor condition. As of Sunday, 91% of the crop had silked, ahead of 87% last year and 77% average. Corn in the dough stage was at 12%, compared with 6% last year and 15% average. Some producers treated fields for insects.

CROPS (Cont.)

Soybean condition improved and rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 56% good, and 10% excellent. Blooming had reached 93% as of Sunday, ahead of last year's 87% and 77% average. Pod set progressed to 40% of the acreage, compared with 34% last year and 32% average.

Sorghum condition improved to 3% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 48% good, and 4% excellent. Heading progressed to 37% as of Sunday, compared with 17% last year and 26% average.

Oats harvest for grain progressed to 94%, considerably ahead of 79% last year and 72% for the average.

Dry bean condition improved from the previous week due to rainfall received in western parts of the State. The crop condition rated 4% poor, 34% fair, 42% good, and 20% excellent. Blooming progressed to 88% as of Sunday, compared with 87% last year. Pod set advanced to 49%, compared with 52% last year.

Alfalfa condition declined to 9% very poor, 23% poor, 35% fair, 30% good and 3% excellent. Second cutting activities were 90% complete. This is equal to last year and above 87% average. Third cutting activities had begun on 4% of the acreage, compared with 6% last year and 9% average. Wild hay condition rated 7% very poor, 25% poor, 35% fair, 28% good, and 5% excellent. Native grass haying continued active.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 14% very poor, 24% poor, 35% fair, 23% good, and 4% excellent. Pastures in the south central district were reported to be in the poorest condition statewide. Some producers were supplemental feeding in northeastern, central and southern counties due to short pastures. CRP and roadway acres were approved for grazing in parts of the State due to limited growth on pastures and short hay supplies. Cooler temperatures last week brought some relief to livestock.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF AUGUST 3, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Silked	79	47	83	97	97	93	98	95	91	70	87	77
% Corn Dough Stage	4	1	3	8	19	4	24	14	12	2	6	15
% Wheat Harvested	92	99	96	100	100	100	100	100	97	88	93	89
% Soybeans Blooming	n/a	65	91	85	95	84	95	98	93	74	87	77
% Soybeans Setting Pods	n/a	20	26	32	48	32	29	56	40	9	34	32
% Sorghum Headed	n/a	44	35	22	53	21	25	38	37	10	17	26
% Oats Harvested	55	99	97	100	98	96	100	100	94	82	79	72
% Dry Beans Blooming	96	100	52	99	n/a	75	n/a	n/a	88	74	87	n/a
% Dry Beans Podded	56	75	20	26	n/a	30	n/a	n/a	49	26	52	n/a
% Alfalfa Second Cutting	55	92	90	99	97	96	100	99	90	78	90	87
% Alfalfa Third Cutting	0	3	1	5	5	14	11	6	4	n/a	6	9
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF AUGUST 1, 1997												
Days suitable	3.6	5.3	6.3	6 8	6.2	4.4	6.5	3.2	5.4	6 6	4 9	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	1	6	11	71	16	10	86	9	22	29	1	
(Percent) - Short	10	64	54	22	56	45	12	36	41	42	22	
- Adequate	83	30	34	7	28	45	2	48	36	29	69	
- Surplus	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	8	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	0	5	4	44	6	13	59	11	15	19	1	
(Percent) - Short	15	47	32	39	54	42	33	49	40	38	22	
- Adequate	83	48	64	17	40	45	8	40	45	43	70	
- Surplus	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	

n/a = not available

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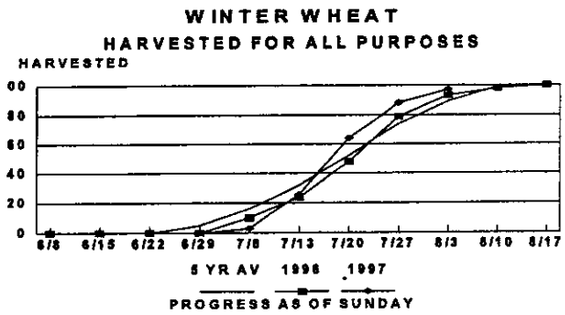
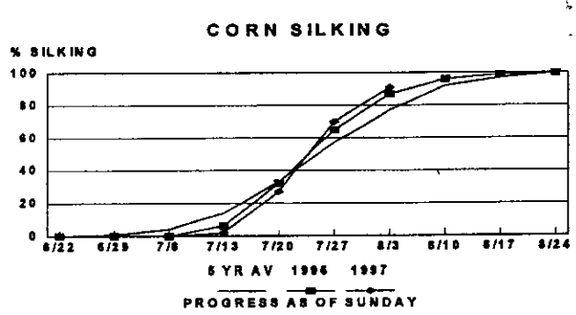
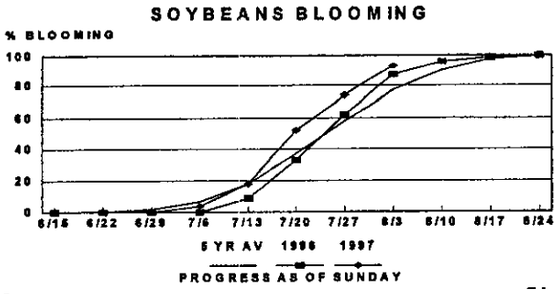
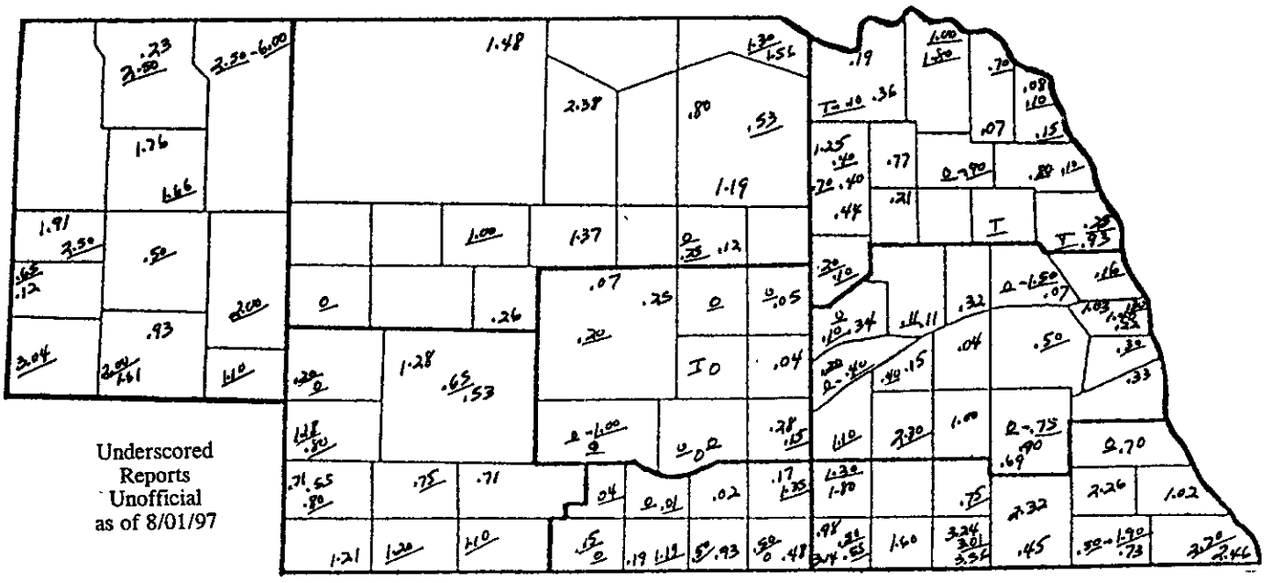






PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1997



Underscored Reports Unofficial as of 8/01/97

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - AUGUST 2, 1997

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1.09	1.15	.47	.10	.52	.86	.30	1.87
Total since April 1	12.14	13.32	12.52	8 72	12.96	10.76	8.58	14.61
Normal since April 1	10.37	12.40	13.80	13.56	14.68	11.73	13.36	14.87
Total as % of normal	117%	107%	91%	64%	88%	92%	64%	98%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA,
WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1997

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total	Last	Current	Normal
		Max	Min			Inches	Week		
NW	Chadron	98	56	71	---	.23	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	93	60	73	-2	1.91	1471	1648	1614
	Sidney	90	62	73	---	1.61	1429	1602	1603
NC	Valentine	92	58	71	-4	1.48	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	1431	1596	1740
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	1523	1705	1871
NE	Norfolk	91	56	73	-2	.21	---	---	---
	Sioux City	89	55	73	-3	.08	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	1546	1722	1910
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	1541	1720	1893
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	1637	1821	1984
CEN	Grand Island	94	60	76	-1	28	1612	1803	1951
	Ord	95	59	74	---	---	1563	1747	1925
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	1643	1836	1935
EC	Lincoln	94	59	76	-2	.90	1750	1956	2124
	Omaha	89	59	74	-2	1.40	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	1622	1806	1973
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	1701	1900	2070
SW	Imperial	91	63	74	---	.55	---	---	---
	North Platte	90	61	73	-2	53	1563	1740	1788
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	1689	1881	1845
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	1608	1804	1920
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	1750	1959	1931
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	1683	1876	2123
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	1641	1833	1962

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln